**Subject area/course**: English/Language Arts

**Grade level/band**: 6

**Task source**: Summit Public Schools

**Writing My Own Myth**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

Historically, ancient peoples and civilizations have used myths to describe our world. Myths have defined our basic values, belief systems, and mysteries of the universe. We may think that myths are part of the past, but they are actually part of our culture, even today. We can find them in books, graphic novels, movies, and TV shows.

1. **Final product**:

For this task, you will be able to recognize the key elements of a myth so that you can then create and write your own myth that explains something interesting about your world. We will begin by reading myths from several cultures and analyzing these myths to see what they have in common. You will then have the opportunity to create a myth of your own, using entirely new characters or creatures from the cultures we have read about. You will be using the mediums of storytelling and creative writing to describe the world of your myth. You will also create another version of your myth in a visual representation in a book cover and picture. At the end of the project, you and your peers will participate in a gallery walk that will exhibit your myths.

In order to complete this project, you will learn how to develop a story by using narrative techniques, which will help the reader understand your myth. Additionally, you will learn about how to organize a paragraph so that your myth is clear and coherent. You will also learn about what defines a myth. How is a myth different from any other story? What sets it apart? By the end of this project, you will be able to both identify myths and create them yourself!

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

* Plan, draft, organize, and revise a narrative (a story) in myth form.
* Develop dialogue for your story.
* Participate in a peer review of your own and another’s myth to revise your writing.
* Illustrate your myth with two drawings (hand drawn or computer-generated).

1. **Materials needed:**

* Copies of myths handed out in class
* Item A. Myth Archetypes
* Item B. Elements of a Myth
* Item C. Developing Dialogue
* Item D. Peer Review Protocol
* Item E. Visual Representation Guidelines

1. **Time requirements:**

This task will take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. Your teacher will provide details regarding timelines and due dates.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Summit Public Schools Writing My Own Myth Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.